New Masters,
New Servants

Migration, Development, and Women Workers in China

Yan Hairong
CONTENTS

Preface vii

Introduction 1

1. The Emaciation of the Rural: “No Way Out” 25

2. Mind and Body, Gender and Class 53

Part I. “Intellectuals’ Burdens” and Domestic Labor 57

Part II. Searching for the Proper Baomu 80

Intermezzo 1. A Survey of Employers 109

3. Suzhi as a New Human Value: Neoliberal Governance of Labor Migration 111

Intermezzo 2. Urban Folklore on Neoliberalism 139

4. A Mirage of Modernity: Pas de Deux of Consumption and Production 145

5. Self-Development and the Specter of Class 187

Intermezzo 3. Diary and Song 217

6. The Economic Law and Liminal Subjects 221

Notes 251

References 287

Index 307